[Mr. K. George.]

(*b*) The author of the map referred to is Mr. T. S. Nelliappa Aiyar.

The Inspector has the power to purchase and supply to the departmental schools under him such educational appliances as he considers satisfactory to the extent of the funds placed at his disposal or the purpose.

Raising the Women's College to the First Grade.

207. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*): Will the Government be pleased to call for and lay on the table the report of the Syndicate on the affiliation of the College for Women as a First Grade College to the University of Madras.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The Government have no information regarding any report of the Syndicate. The Registrar has forwarded an extract from the report of the Inspection Commission appointed to conduct a local enquiry at the College and a copy of this extract* is laid on the table. The Registrar has stated that "the Syndicate is not pleased to grant the request for affiliation in the present circumstances".

Maintenance of the Ryots' Road to Tiruvanmandur.

208. **MR. KALLUR NARAYANA PILLAI** (*Pattanamtitta*): (1) Are the Government aware:

(*a*) of a four-mile road constructed by the people from the neighbourhood of the 76th mile of the M. C. road to the place called Tiruvanmandur;

(*b*) of the representation in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly praying for the handing over of this road to the Public Works Department;

(*c*) of petitions to the same purpose from the people of the locality submitted to the Government from the time of Dewan Mr. Krishnan Nair;

(*d*) that the construction of five culverts alone will not make it a cart-road;

(*e*) of the sufferings of the people of the locality for want of a cart-road; and

(*f*) of the visit of the present Chief Engineer to the place and of his promise to the people that the said road would be taken charge of by the Public Works Department?

(2) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are prepared to issue orders to make the said road a cart-road?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (1) (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

* *Vide* Appendix V—pages 980—986.

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No amount of advice has been of any use in respect of this convict. He loses his temper all on a sudden and gets furious and is prone to do anything. He was once before whipped for defiant conduct, with weapon in hand. He deserves to be seriously dealt with.

Warder No. 68, knowing well the bad temper of the convict, was wrong in picking him for jungle clearing work, when there were others without fetters on. It is seen that to get up to that place with fetters on is rather difficult. To have insisted on the convict to go to that work with a show of force was nothing less than goading him to an act which might have led to disastrous consequences.

Sd./—E. RAMAKRISHNA AIYAR,
Jailer.

Order of the Superintendent thereon.

The convict is a defiant character and proved himself to be a villain and a short tempered man. It has been found that his going with others is rather dangerous. He will be kept always in a cell with bar fetters on and given work. His tasks will be checked by the Jailer daily.

Since no untoward thing happened, I am saving him from triangle this time. The prisoner will be watched carefully by all the officers concerned. A warder will always be with the prisoner.

The warder No. 68 was utterly indiscreet in his dealing with such a dangerous character.

Sd./—M. P.
Superintendent.
17-4-1102.

Appendix V.

***Vide* Answer to Question No. 207.**

Extract from the Report of the Commission appointed by the Syndicate to conduct a local inquiry at the Maharaja's College for Women, Trivandrum, for affiliation in Group II of the Intermediate and Groups V—A and VI of the B. A. Courses.

With reference to your letter No. 4114, dated the 2nd April 1927, we have the honour to report as follows on the local enquiry conducted by us at Trivandrum on the application of the Maharaja's College for Women for affiliation in Group II of the Intermediate and Groups V—A and VI of the B. A. Courses.

2. We visited the College on the 25th April 1927 and our visit lasted for about 4 hours from 2 P. M. In the forenoon, the members of the Commission met and considered carefully, as a preliminary to the visit, the data supplied by the Principal to the Convener and by the Director of Public Instruction to the University and other relevant papers. This consultation lasted some three hours.

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3. We were received and shown over the college grounds and buildings by the Principal, Miss D. H. Watts, B. A., and by Mr. J. Stephenson, B. SC., Director of Public Instruction to the Travancore Government. We were also taken round to see the College Hostel of which the Principal is Warden.

4. Our visit could not take place earlier, as an earlier date, when suggested, was not found to suit the Principal.

5. We give below the chief results of our enquiry.

6. *Previous History.* A few facts in the previous history of this college will be needed for the proper understanding of our report, and of the need we felt to make a thorough examination. The institution was first affiliated to the University as a Second Grade College in 1897. After the passing of the Indian University Act (VIII of 1904), the Dewan of Travancore wrote to the Registrar, in 1907, intimating to the University, under the general leave then given, that this College would consider itself affiliated in Groups I and III (Malayalam, two Histories and Logic) in the remodelled Intermediate Courses, then introduced. The University agreed to this and granted the affiliation in the Groups, without inspection then or before the date. The College went on with Group III alone and did not use the affiliation in Group I for 16 years, *i. e.*, till 1923. In February of that year, the Director of Public Instruction notified to the Registrar that instruction in Group I would be given from June 1923, in accordance with the affiliation granted in 1907. The classes were started, the University raising no objection. Thus, it has come about that at no stage has this College been inspected till now by a local enquiry commission, except recently by a single Commissioner (now one of us) on the application of the College to offer instruction in Sanskrit as a subject in Group III. The University has had thus, till now, no opportunity of knowing whether all the necessary conditions of affiliation have been satisfied by this institution or not.

7. The Quinquennial University Commisssion visited the College in September 1918, and made a Report, which was communicated to the College authorities. In the course of this Report of ours, we shall have occasion to refer to the findings of this Commission to show the defects revealed in 1918 have persisted for about a decade and remained uncorrected by the Management of the College.

8. *Management.* The College is a State institution. For administrative purposes, it is placed under the control of the Director of Public Instruction, Trivandrum, to whom the Principal is responsible. We were told that the Principal has a free hand in internal affairs. There is no College Council. Doubtless, one would, and should be formed, on the model of the Councils now existing in the Science and Arts Colleges, maintained by the Travancore Darbar, if and when the Women's College is raised to the First Grade.

9. *Buildings and Accommodation.* The Report of the Commission of 1918 stated : "The present accommodation cannot be

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considered sufficient. There are no private rooms for the teachers nor is there a common room. The teachers, men and women, sit in their leisure hours in the Library and the Reading Room. *This arrangement is certainly to be condemned.*" In 1918, the College was located in buildings near the present Science College, along with a Girls' High School, and some of the buildings were, we gather, specially built for the College. Since then, the College and the High School have been separated, and the College has been shifted to the present buildings in Taikad, not far from the Arts College. Nevertheless, as will be seen from what is said below, there has been no improvement in the position as regards accommodation. The present building of the College was, in fact, till the removal of the College into it, the bungalow of the State's Chief Medical Officer. It is quite unsuited for the purposes of a College, though its central location in a less noisy and dusty part of the town than its former site, is an undoubted gain to the College.

10. After its removal to the present buildings, the College started Group I Classes, increasing thereby the pressure for accommodation still further. We inspected the building and the rooms very closely, in view of this, as well as of the present proposal to put more classes at once into it. We regret to have to report that the existing accommodation is hardly sufficient for the legitimate requirements of the Groups of the Intermediate (I and III) in which the College now enjoys affiliation. Whether one considers the number of rooms available or their quality, the present position will be found inadequate for the present purposes. This may be evident from the following recital:—

(i) The Junior Intermediate Class has now about 70 students. Its History and English work is done in a long narrow and ill-ventilated room, 53′ × 20′.

(ii) The Senior Intermediate English and History room is hardly better. It is still smaller, being only 42′ × 20′; and is quite as ill-ventilated. In both the rooms we found that, even at 2 P. M. on a bright cloudless day in April, there was no sufficient light to fit them for class purposes. In the evening hours and in the monsoon months, they must be even darker than we found them. Their retention as class rooms deserves strong condemnation.

(iii) The Intermediate classes in Sanskrit are held in a low room, 18′ × 27′ and the Tamil classes in a small *verandah* room 8′ × 19′. The larger Malayalam classes are held in an adjacent building in a room 20′ × 24′. The lighting conditions of these also leave much to be desired.

(iv) The Chemistry Laboratory (42′ × 14′) and lecture room (20′ × 14′) are located in a separate building which is long and narrow. The Physics Laboratory is held in a small room 20′ × 24′, and the Physics and Mathematics classes are held in two very small rooms close by the Laboratory.

(v) A small and rather dark room, about 27 feet square serves as the Library. An adjoining verandah is the Reading Room. It has

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also to serve, with the Library, as the sitting room for the entire staff and the students during their leisure hours.

(vi) The Commission of 1918 complained that there were no private rooms for the Lecturers and no common rooms. At present the men-lecturers have no common room, and no separate rooms. The ladies on the staff have no separate rooms, but have, for *all* of them, a tiny room, to serve as their common room. It can just hold *three* chairs.

(vii) With such defective accommodation, it is hardly necessary to add that the students have no common room. In their leisure hours, they have to crowd with Lecturers of both sexes, into the Library, whose spatial facilities are inadequate for even the small collection of books, which the College now has. If the books which a First Grade College should have even at the start are to be housed, there will be no place for them in the Library or, so far as we can see, anywhere else in this College at present.

11. It will be evident that even for its present needs the accommodation is hardly sufficient. If the College sought affiliation for the first time, with such meagre accommodation, it is doubtful whether any Commission would support the application now. Nevertheless, application has been made on this basis for further affiliation in Group II of the Intermediate, and in two groups of the B. A. If Group II is opened, it would be impossible to conduct the Physics and Chemistry classes in their present rooms and laboratories. Further, *at least two* additional rooms of proper character and size will be needed for Botany and Zoology. When we enquired as to how these were to be found in June next, we were told by the Principal that she proposed to give up her office room to the Natural Science Section. But this room is not suitable for the purpose. If the proposal had been to set free for the Natural Science Section, the only large and decent hall in the College, which is at present used as an Assembly, Music, and Drill Hall, there would be less objection to the idea, if the need of the Botany, Zoology Group were alone to be considered. But this hall cannot be spared, since there is no other large hall in which the whole College could be assembled. The diversion of this hall to the Natural Science Department will be possible only if another equally large hall can be provided *at once* for the present uses to which the present hall is now put.

12. For the new B. A. classes, the Principal proposes to release two rooms, $20' \times 24'$ each, now used as her personal office and retiring rooms. In view of the great inconvenience to which they are now subjected by the want of common rooms or retiring rooms, we are of opinion that the staff has the first claim on any room which can be spared, and that the teachers must be provided for before new classes are opened. Further, the two rooms shown to us will not suffice for the B. A. needs. For the classes in Group VI, at least *two* additional rooms will be necessary one for Sanskrit and the other for Malayalam. So far as we could see, no spare rooms are available or will be available in the near future. We were indeed told of the new building under

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construction, but we understood that it is not expected to be completed before 1930, though two or three rooms in it *may* be available for use from June *1928*, onwards, *i. e.*, over a year from now. This prospect is not encouraging. It is clear that next July, when the Principal wishes to open the new Intermediate and B. A. classes, there will not be in existence even a *part of* the *minimum* additional accommodation, which would justify the opening of the new classes.

13. *The Teaching Staff.* The University Commission of 1918 found a number of men on the staff of this College and condemned the practice. "This practice", they said, "of appointing men teachers in Women's Colleges, cannot be too strongly condemned. It is to be hoped that *early* steps will be taken to remedy the existing state of affairs." The criticism is just, since the *raison d'etre* for a separate College for Women largely disappears with the provision of a mixed staff for it. During the nine years that have elapsed since then, many women have taken Pass and Honours Degrees in almost all branches of knowledge, and several well qualified women have been available for service. And yet, out of the 12 members of the staff (excluding the Principal), as many as six are men and some of these (*e. g.*, the instructors in Tamil and Malayalam) are neither graduates in their subjects nor holders of Oriental Titles in their languages. They could easily have been replaced by qualified women, but the fact remains that they have not been replaced.

14. The memorandum attached to the application for affiliation gives particulars of the staff which the Director proposes to appoint. It is possible to suggest improvements in it, particularly in view of the qualifications of the ladies now on the staff. For, only two of them have at least second class Honours Degrees, and none of them including the Principal, has ever handled a B. A. class. Nevertheless we are prepared to accept the additional staff suggested, if *two* conditions are enforced, *viz.*, (1) that *every* person newly appointed in a vacancy or to replace a gentleman lecturer, should be a woman with a *good Honours* Degree in the subject concerned, with some collegiate teaching experience, preferably in the B. A. classes; and (2) that the College is *entirely* staffed by women, both on the instructional and the administrative sides. The Travancore educational service is pensionable, and the salary scales proposed by the Director are liberal. There should therefore be no difficulty in getting fully qualified women for every one of the places in the College. In the case of the Vernaculars, (Malayalam and Tamil) women who have taken good pass degrees in the language concerned may be appointed, if women with Honours Degrees are not immediately available, and the appointments may be probational till the ladies take the M. A. Degree in their respective subjects.

* * *

17. *Playing Grounds.*—Provision is made for Tennis and Badminton; but the number of courts provided will have to be increased, as the existing courts are not sufficient.

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18. *Library.* We have already referred to the unsatisfactory nature of the accommodation now available for the College Library. A Library which has also to be a common room for students and teachers can hardly serve its legitimate purpose. There is no printed catalogue, but manuscript catalogues were placed before us, which were duly scrutinised. Except as regards Tamil and Malayalam, it was found that even for the existing subjects and in groups of the Intermediate, the collection of books in existence was quite inadequate. The Director of Public Instruction proposed to spend during the current official year Rs. 1,300 on books so as to fit the Library for the requirement of a First Grade College. We consider the provision suggested to be exceedingly low. In our opinion, a sum of *at least* Rs. 5,000 will have to be spent before this Library can be made good enough for starting a First Grade College giving instruction in the subjects to Groups V-A and VI (Malayalam and Sanskrit).

19. *Laboratory equipment.* We have already alluded to the unsuitable character of the existing and proposed laboratory accommodation. The laboratories are also badly equipped. To make them efficient even for current needs, some expenditure will be necessary. Before Group II can be opened, an initial expenditure of Rs. 6,000 will be necessary, and an annual recurring grant of Rs. 1,500 must be guaranteed thereafter. The Physics and Chemistry laboratories must be improved *at once* and made efficient, not merely to make them fit for Group II work, but to justify the retention of affiliation in Group I.

20. *Finance.* Nothing need be said under this head since the College is maintained by the Government of Travancore.

21. *Fees.* The College now charges Rs. 42 a year in the Intermediate classes, and proposes to levy Rs. 56 a year in the B. A. courses. We are satisfied that these rates will not involve unfair competition with other colleges open to women.

22. *Conclusion.* Such women students in the State as have not been provided for in this College, have hitherto been receiving instruction in the Women's Colleges at Madras or in the local Science and Arts Colleges which have been open to both sexes. A really well-equipped and efficient First Grade College for Women will therefore be welcomed in a State like Travancore, where the education of girls has made very rapid progress. It is not therefore surprising that raising the Trivandrum Women's College to the First Grade has been among the plans of the Travancore University Committee. We have the utmost sympathy for the aims of the Darbar and should like to help them to realise their object. But in view of the facts disclosed at our enquiry, we are compelled to report that the present application for affiliation is premature, and that, with its very poor accommodation and ill-equipped library and laboratories, this College is not now in a position to be raised to the First Grade. The arrangements already made or about to be made for opening Group II in the Intermediate and Groups VI and V-A in the B. A. in July next, are meagre and unsatisfactory, and such as

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we cannot ask the University to approve of. To shift the girls from the efficient institutions in which they now study or might study, to this College, with the existing conditions unchanged, would not be, in our opinion, in the best interests of the University education of the women of the State. We, therefore, regret that we cannot recommend the grant of affiliation asked for either in Group II of the Intermediate or in Groups V-A and VI of the B. A. Degree Courses. We have also considered what has so far been done and what may be reasonably possible to accomplish in the next few months, in this institution, and have found that it would not be possible to recommend even conditional affiliation till the grave defects referred to in this Report are first rectified.

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